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Message Text

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43
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 M-03 A-01 OPR-02 SY-10

AID-20 PC-15 NIC-01 OMB-01 OC-06 CCO-00 RSR-01 CU-04

IO-12 /141 W
---------- 025254
O R 241520 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4569
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
APONSUL CALCUTTA 841
AMCONSUL MADRAS

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E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: PINS PINT MILI IN
SUBJECT: STUDENT ARSON AND POLICE/ ARMY CLASH IN UTTAR PRADESH

REF: NEW DELHI 4366

SUMMARY: GOI TAKING SERIOUS VIEW OF VIRTUALLY UNPRECEDENTED CLASHES AND EXCHANGE OF FIRE BETWEEN DISAFFECTED UNITS OF PROVINCIAL ARMED CONSTABULARY (PAC) AND ARMY UNITS IN UTTAR PRADESH (UP) MAY 22. INCIDENTS BETAN WHEN PAC UNITS SENT TO MAIN ORDER JOINED EXAM- RESTLESS LUCKNOW STUDENTS IN DEMON- STRATION MAY 21. RESPONDING TO ORDERS PAC WITHDREW AND STUDENTS THEN BURNED SEVERAL UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS. ARMY RESTORED ORDER AND, NEXT DAY, MOVED TO DISARM PAC AND SECURE PAC ARMORIES THROUGHOUT UP. SOME PAC UNITS RESISTED WITH FIREARMS, CAUSING
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FATALITIES. CONGRESS STANDING IN KEY STATE HAS BEEN HURT AND GOVT AND CONGRESS PARTY HAVE RUSHED MINISTERS AND MPS TO AREA. NO HARM TO US CITIZENS OR PROPEERTY REPORTED. END SUMMARY

1. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THAT LUCKNOW UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, RESTLESS OVER PRESENCE OF PAC ON CAMPUS DURING ANNUAL EXAMS, MOUNTED PROTEST DEMONSTRATION MAY 31. SEVERAL PAC UNITS, DISSATISFIED OVER LOW PAY AND OTHER GRIEVANCES, FAILED TO MAINTAIN ORDER AND JOINED STUDENTS IN JOINT DEMONSTRATION. SOME PAC MEN HAD FORMED UNION WHICH HAS PRESSED DEMANDS IN VAIN. DISGRUNTLED PAC UNITS WERE ORDER TO WITHDRAW AND DID SO; STUDENTS THEN RULED CAMPUS FOR TWO HOURS. THEY SET FIRE TO SEVERAL UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS, CAUSING EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO OFFICES AND RECORDS. ARMY UNITS WERE CALLED IN AND RESTORED ORDER. BORDER SECURITY FORCES (BSF) ENTERED ON CMAPUS MAY 23.

2. IN VIEW DEMONSTRATED IN DISCIPLINE IN SOME PAC UNITS, GOI CONCURRED IN MAY 22 UTTAR PRADESH GOVERNMENT REQUEST THAT ARMY TAKE CONTROL OF PAC ARMORIES AND DISARM SUSPECT PAC UNITS IN UP. PAC UNITS AT KANPUR, GORAKHPUR, BENARES, AND ELSEWHERE RESISTED, FIRING ON ARMY. SOME OFFICIAL SOURCES PUT DEAD AT 25; OTHERS, AT 34. ESTIMATES OF WOUNDED RAN FROM 30 TO 100. BY MAY 24 ARMY HAD SEIZED ALL PAC ARMORIES, EXCEPT AT BERABANKI AND GORAKHPUR, WHERE PAC UNITS WITH OFFICER HOSTAGES WERE STILL BARRICADED. ABOUT 300 PAC MEN HAVE BEEN ROUNDED UP, BUT OTHERS, SOME WITH ARMS, HAVE FLED. CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE (CRP) AND BSF ARE MOVING IN TO ASSIST ARMY.

3. GOI TAKING EXTREMELY SERIOUS VIEW OF INCIDENTS. MINISTER OF STATE FOR HOME PANT, COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER BEHAGAME, AND DEFENSE SECRETARY GOVIND NARAIN HAVE GONE TO LUCKNOW. UTTAR PRADESH CHIEF SECRETARY WAS QUOTED AS SAYING POLITICAL PARTIES' INFLUENCE IN DISTRUBANCES " OBVIOUS". PANT SAID PAC UNITS MIGHT HAVE HAD " UNSEEN SUPPORT AND ASSURANCES TO INDULGE IN THIS KIND OF INDISCIPLINE." IN DELHI, HOME MINISTER DIKSHIT BRIEFED CABINET' S TOP POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, URGIN HARD LINE AGAINST INDISCIPLINE. PRIME MINISTER CANCELLED MAY 24-25 TRIP TO FAIZABED (UP). DIKSHIT ALSO BRIEFED MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT FROM UP, WHO CRITICIZED ADMINISTRATIVE LAXNESS IN STATE WHICH PERMITTED PAC INTEELLIGENCE UNITS TO IGNORE UNION THREAT. PRESS FOUND CONGRESS
GOVERNMENT IN UP WANTING IN VIGILANCE.
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4. COMMENT: PAC IS PARAMILITARY FORCE ORGINALLY RAISED BY BRITISH TO COMBAT DACOITS (BANDITS). UNITS ARE POORLY TRAINED, POORLY PAID, AND POORLY DISCIPLINED. PAC HAS OFTEN BEEN ACCUSED OF ACTING VIOLENTLY IN SURPRESSING CASTS/ COMMUNAL DISTRUBANCES. EMBASSY HAS ASKED CONGENS DISCREETLY TO C

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